

# Termination Analysis of Loops

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## Example: GCD Algorithm

$$\gcd(y_1, y_2) = \begin{cases} \gcd(y_1 - y_2, y_2) & \text{if } y_1 > y_2 \\ \gcd(y_1, y_2 - y_1) & \text{if } y_1 < y_2 \\ y_1 & \text{if } y_1 = y_2 \end{cases}$$

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} \gcd(77, 112) &= \gcd(77, 35) = \gcd(42, 35) = \gcd(7, 35) \\ &= \gcd(7, 28) = \gcd(7, 21) = \gcd(7, 14) \\ &= \gcd(7, 7) = 7 \end{aligned}$$

## Example: GCD Program

```
int gcd(int  $y_1 > 0$ , int  $y_2 > 0$ )  
  while  $y_1 \neq y_2$  do  
    if  $y_1 > y_2$  then  $y_1 := y_1 - y_2$  else  $y_2 := y_2 - y_1$   
  done  
  return  $y_1$ 
```

Abstract program:

$$\Theta : \{y_1 \geq 1, y_2 \geq 1\}$$

$$\tau_1 : \{y_1 \geq y_2 + 1\} \Rightarrow \{y'_1 = y_1 - y_2, y'_2 = y_2\}$$

$$\tau_2 : \{y_2 \geq y_1 + 1\} \Rightarrow \{y'_2 = y_2 - y_1, y'_1 = y_1\}$$

for  $y_1, y_2 \in \mathbb{R}$

## Example: Termination of GCD

$$\Theta : \{y_1 \geq 1, y_2 \geq 1\}$$

$$\tau_1 : \{y_1 \geq y_2 + 1\} \Rightarrow \{y'_1 = y_1 - y_2, y'_2 = y_2\}$$

$$\tau_2 : \{y_2 \geq y_1 + 1\} \Rightarrow \{y'_2 = y_2 - y_1, y'_1 = y_1\}$$

$\delta(y_1, y_2) = y_1 + y_2$  is a **ranking function**

$y_1 \geq 1 \wedge y_2 \geq 1$  is a **loop invariant**

- $\delta$  is **bounded from below**:

if  $\tau_1$  or  $\tau_2$  can be taken,  $\delta(y_1, y_2) \geq 0$

- $\delta$  **decreases** on each iteration:

if  $\tau_1$  or  $\tau_2$  is taken,  $\delta(y'_1, y'_2) \leq \delta(y_1, y_2) - 1$

Therefore, GCD terminates.

**Goal:**

Find ranking functions and supporting invariants automatically.

# Ranking Functions

## Loops

**Loop Abstraction:**

GCD

$L : \langle \Theta, \mathcal{T} \rangle$  over  $\mathcal{V}$ :

- **variables**  $\mathcal{V}$  range over  $\mathbb{R}$   $\{y_1, y_2\}$
- **initial condition**  $\Theta$  is assertion over  $\mathcal{V}$   $y_1 \geq 1 \wedge y_2 \geq 1$
- **transitions**  $\tau \in \mathcal{T}$  are assertions  $\{\tau_1, \tau_2\}$   
 $\tau(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{V}')$  over  $\mathcal{V} \cup \mathcal{V}'$

**Loop Validity:**

Assertion  $\varphi$  is **valid over loop**  $L$

$$L \models \varphi$$

if  $\varphi$  holds on all **reachable states**  $\mathcal{S}_L$  of  $L$ . *values of*  $(y_1, y_2)$

In practice, replace “ $L \models$ ” with **loop invariants**.  $y_1 \geq 1 \wedge y_2 \geq 1$

## Well-founded Relation

$(D, \prec)$ :  $\prec$  is **well-founded** if there is no infinite sequence

$$d_1, d_2, d_3, \dots \quad \text{where } d_i \in D$$

such that

$$(\forall i) d_i \succ d_{i+1}$$

$$(d_2 \prec d_1 \iff d_1 \succ d_2)$$

Examples:

- $(\mathbb{Z}^+, <)$
- $(\mathbb{R}^+, \prec_\epsilon)$  for  $\epsilon > 0$      $x \prec_\epsilon y \iff x \leq y - \epsilon$
- $(\mathbb{L}, \prec)$  for lists  $\mathbb{L}$      $\ell_1 \prec \ell_2 \iff |\ell_1| < |\ell_2|$

## Ranking Function

Consider loop  $L : \langle \Theta, \mathcal{T} \rangle$  over  $\mathcal{V}$ .

$\delta : \mathcal{S}_L \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a **ranking function** of  $L$  if

**(Bounded)**  $(\forall \tau \in \mathcal{T})$

$$L \models \tau(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{V}') \rightarrow \delta(\mathcal{V}) \geq 0$$

**(Ranking)**  $(\exists \epsilon > 0)(\forall \tau \in \mathcal{T})$

$$L \models \tau(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{V}') \rightarrow \delta(\mathcal{V}') \leq \delta(\mathcal{V}) - \epsilon$$

$\delta, \epsilon$  induce a well-founded relation over  $\mathcal{S}_L$ :

for  $s, t \in \mathcal{S}_L$ ,

$$s \prec t \iff \delta(s) \leq \delta(t) - \epsilon$$

Thus,  $L$  always terminates.



## Example: GCD

Prove  $\delta(y_1, y_2) = y_1 + y_2$  is a ranking function for GCD.

- Take loop invariant  $y_1 \geq 1 \wedge y_2 \geq 1$ .
- Choose  $\epsilon = 1$ .

**Bounded**  $\tau_1$

$$\underbrace{y_2 \geq 1}_{\text{invariant}} \wedge \underbrace{y_1 \geq y_2 + 1}_{\text{guard of } \tau_1} \rightarrow y_1 + y_2 \geq 0$$

**Ranking**  $\tau_1$

$$\underbrace{y_2 \geq 1}_{\text{invariant}} \rightarrow \underbrace{(y_1 - y_2) + (y_2)}_{\text{substitution by } \tau_1} \leq y_1 + y_2 - \underbrace{1}_{\epsilon}$$

## Example: GCD

**Bounded**  $\tau_2$

$$\underbrace{y_1 \geq 1}_{\text{invariant}} \wedge \underbrace{y_2 \geq y_1 + 1}_{\text{guard of } \tau_2} \rightarrow y_1 + y_2 \geq 0$$

**Ranking**  $\tau_2$

$$\underbrace{y_1 \geq 1}_{\text{invariant}} \rightarrow \underbrace{(y_1) + (y_2 - y_1)}_{\text{substitution by } \tau_2} \leq y_1 + y_2 - \underbrace{1}_{\epsilon}$$

Assertions are valid, so GCD always terminates.

## Lexicographic Well-founded Relation

Given well-founded relations over domains

$$(D_1, \prec_1), (D_2, \prec_2), \dots, (D_k, \prec_k)$$

define **lexicographic well-founded relation**  $\prec$  over

$$D = D_1 \times D_2 \times \dots \times D_k$$

For  $d = \langle d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k \rangle$ ,  $e = \langle e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k \rangle \in D$

$$d \prec e \iff (\exists i) [d_i \prec_i e_i \wedge (\forall j < i) d_j = e_j]$$

$$\langle d_1, \dots, d_i, \dots, d_k \rangle$$

$$= \prec_i$$

$$\langle e_1, \dots, e_i, \dots, e_k \rangle$$

## Lexicographic Ranking Function

Consider loop  $L : \langle \Theta, \mathcal{T} \rangle$ .

Tuple of functions  $\delta : \langle \delta_1, \delta_2, \dots, \delta_k \rangle$  where  $\delta_i : \mathcal{S}_L \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

and map  $\pi : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, k\}$

comprise a **lexicographic ranking function** for  $L$  if

**(Bounded)**  $(\forall \tau \in \mathcal{T})$

$$L \models \tau(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{V}') \rightarrow \delta_{\pi(\tau)}(\mathcal{V}) \geq 0$$

**(Ranking)**  $(\exists \epsilon > 0)(\forall \tau \in \mathcal{T})$

$$L \models \tau(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{V}') \rightarrow \delta_{\pi(\tau)}(\mathcal{V}') \leq \delta_{\pi(\tau)}(\mathcal{V}) - \epsilon$$

**(Nonincreasing)**  $(\forall \tau \in \mathcal{T})$

$$L \models (\forall j < \pi(\tau))[\tau(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{V}') \rightarrow \delta_j(\mathcal{V}') \leq \delta_j(\mathcal{V})]$$

## Induced Lexicographic Well-founded Relation

$\delta, \epsilon$  induce a lexicographic well-founded relation over  $\mathcal{S}_L$ :

for  $s, t \in \mathcal{S}_L$ ,

$$s \prec t \iff (\exists i) [\delta_i(s) \leq \delta_i(t) - \epsilon \wedge (\forall j < i) \delta_j(s) = \delta_j(t)]$$

Thus,  $L$  always terminates.

## Example: McCarthy 91

For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ ,

$$f(n) = \begin{cases} f(f(n + 11)) & \text{if } n \leq 100 \\ n - 10 & \text{if } n > 100 \end{cases}$$

For every  $1 \leq n \leq 92$ ,  $f(n) = 91$ , if it terminates.

We prove termination for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} f(89) &= f(f(100)) = f(f(f(111))) = f(f(101)) \\ &= f(91) = f(f(102)) = \dots = 91 \end{aligned}$$

## Example: Imperative McCarthy 91

```
int  $f$ (int  $x$ )
  int  $s = 1$ 
  while true do
    if  $x > 100$ 
    then if  $s = 1$ 
         then return  $x - 10$ 
         else  $x := x - 10$ 
               $s := s - 1$ 
    else  $x := x + 11$ 
          $s := s + 1$ 
  done
```

Abstract program:

$$\Theta : \{s = 1\}$$
$$\tau_1 : \{x \geq 101, s \neq 1\} \Rightarrow \{x' = x - 10, s' = s - 1\}$$
$$\tau_2 : \{x \leq 100\} \Rightarrow \{x' = x + 11, s' = s + 1\}$$

for  $x, s \in \mathbb{R}$

## Example: McCarthy 91

Prove

$$\langle \underbrace{10s - x + 90}_{\delta_1}, \underbrace{x}_{\delta_2} \rangle$$
$$\pi(\tau_1) = 2, \pi(\tau_2) = 1$$

is a lexicographic ranking function for McCarthy 91.

- Take loop invariant  $s \geq 1$ .
- Choose  $\epsilon = 1$ .

Show

$$\begin{array}{ll} \tau_1 \rightarrow \delta_2 \geq 0 & \tau_2 \rightarrow \delta_1 \geq 0 \\ \tau_1 \rightarrow \delta'_2 \leq \delta_2 - \epsilon & \tau_2 \rightarrow \delta'_1 \leq \delta_1 - \epsilon \\ \tau_1 \rightarrow \delta'_1 \leq \delta_1 & \end{array}$$



## Example: McCarthy 91

**Bounded**  $\tau_1$ :  $\pi(\tau_1) = 2$

$$\underbrace{x \geq 101}_{\text{guard of } \tau_1} \rightarrow \underbrace{x}_{\delta_2} \geq 0$$

**Ranking**  $\tau_1$ :  $\pi(\tau_1) = 2$

$$\underbrace{x \geq 101}_{\text{guard of } \tau_1} \rightarrow \underbrace{(x - 10)}_{\text{substitution into } \delta_2 \text{ by } \tau_1} \leq \underbrace{x}_{\delta_2} - \underbrace{1}_{\epsilon}$$

**Nonincreasing**  $\tau_1$ :  $1 < \pi(\tau_1) = 2$

$$\underbrace{x \geq 101}_{\text{guard of } \tau_1} \rightarrow \underbrace{10(s - 1) - (x - 10) + 90}_{\text{substitution into } \delta_1 \text{ by } \tau_1} \leq \underbrace{10s - x + 90}_{\delta_1}$$

## Example: McCarthy 91

**Bounded**  $\tau_2$ :  $\pi(\tau_2) = 1$

$$\underbrace{s \geq 1}_{\text{invariant}} \wedge \underbrace{x \leq 100}_{\text{guard of } \tau_2} \rightarrow \underbrace{10s - x + 90}_{\delta_1} \geq 0$$

**Ranking**  $\tau_2$ :  $\pi(\tau_2) = 1$

$$\underbrace{10(s + 1) - (x + 11) + 90}_{\text{substitution into } \delta_1 \text{ by } \tau_2} \leq \underbrace{10s - x + 90}_{\delta_1} - \underbrace{1}_{\epsilon}$$

Assertions are valid, so McCarthy 91 always terminates.

# The Theoretical Landscape

## Ranking Functions

**Theorem** Every terminating loop has a ranking function.

But in general, expressing a ranking function requires **FOL with fixpoints**, which is **incomplete**.

Therefore, termination is not necessarily semi-decidable.

In fact, we show that termination is not semi-decidable for a simple class of loops.

## Interlude: Linear Loops

Consider variables  $\mathcal{V} = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m\}$ .

homogenous vector:

$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_m, 1)^T$$

linear assertion:

$$\begin{array}{c} \left[ \begin{array}{cccc} a_{1,1} & \cdots & a_{1,m} & a_{1,m+1} \\ & & \vdots & \\ & & a_{k,m} & a_{k,m+1} \\ a_{k,1} & \cdots & & \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{Ax} \\ \left[ \begin{array}{c} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \\ 1 \end{array} \right] \end{array} \geq \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \geq \\ \left[ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{array} \right] \end{array} \\ \bigwedge_{i \in \{1, \dots, k\}} (a_{i,1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{i,m}x_m + a_{i,m+1}) \geq 0 \end{array}$$

## Interlude: Linear Loops

Consider variables  $\mathcal{V} = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m\}$ .

**linear loop:**  $L : \langle \Theta, \mathcal{T} \rangle$  in which all assertions are linear

- let  $(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') = (x_1, \dots, x_m, x'_1, \dots, x'_m, 1)^T$
- initial condition:  $\boxed{\Theta \mathbf{x} \geq 0}$
- transitions:  $\boxed{\tau_i(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') \geq 0}$

## Theoretical Limitation

Consider loops of form:

$$\Theta : \bigwedge_{x_i \in \bar{\mathcal{V}} \subseteq \mathcal{V}} x_i = c_i$$

while  $\mathbf{g}^T \mathbf{x} \geq 0$  do

$$\mathbf{x} := \underbrace{(\mathbf{A}_1 | \mathbf{A}_2 | \cdots | \mathbf{A}_k)}_{\text{nondeterministic choice}} \mathbf{x}$$

done

for  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

Restricted subset of linear loops.

**Theorem** Termination of such loops is not semi-decidable  
(not recursively enumerable).

No complete method.

## Synthesis Problem

Identify class of loops  $Y$

and class of ranking functions  $Z$

such that

synthesis of ranking functions of form  $Z$  is complete for  $Y$ .

Examples:

- **Linear** ranking functions for **linear** loops.
- **Lexicographic linear** ranking functions for **linear** loops.



## Recent Works

### **Colón & Sipma 2001**

Synthesis of linear ranking functions for linear loops.

### **Colón & Sipma 2002**

Extension to nested loops and multiple paths.

### **Colón, Sankaranarayanan & Sipma 2003**

Constraint-based linear invariant generation.

### **Podelski & Rybalchenko 2004**

Complete method for linear loops with one transition and no initial condition. Based on linear programming.

**Bradley, Manna & Sipma 2005** Polyranking-based analysis for polynomial loops with assignment.

**Bradley, Manna & Sipma 2005** Synthesis of lexicographic linear ranking functions with supporting invariants.

Synthesis of  
Linear Ranking Functions  
with Supporting Invariants

## Linear Ranking Function

Constraint-based approach: templates with unknown coefficients.

Consider linear loop  $L : \langle \Theta, \mathcal{T} \rangle$ .

For  $\mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{x}$  a template ( $\mathbf{r}_i$  are unknown coefficients),  
 $\mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{x}$  is a **linear ranking function** if

**(Bounded)**  $(\forall \tau \in \mathcal{T})$

$$L \models \tau(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') \geq 0 \rightarrow \underbrace{\mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{x}}_{\delta} \geq 0$$

**(Ranking)**  $(\exists \epsilon > 0)(\forall \tau \in \mathcal{T})$

$$L \models \tau(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') \geq 0 \rightarrow \mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{x}' \geq \epsilon$$

## Lexicographic Linear Ranking Function

Consider linear loop  $L : \langle \Theta, \mathcal{T} \rangle$ .

$$\underbrace{\langle \mathbf{r}_1^T \mathbf{x}, \dots, \mathbf{r}_k^T \mathbf{x} \rangle}_{\delta_1 \quad \delta_k} \quad \text{and} \quad \pi : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, k\}$$

for unknown coefficients  $\mathbf{r}_{ij}$  and unknown  $\pi$ ,  
is a  $k$ -component lexicographic linear ranking function if

**(Bounded)**  $(\forall \tau \in \mathcal{T})$

$$L \models \tau(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') \geq 0 \rightarrow \mathbf{r}_{\pi(\tau)}^T \mathbf{x} \geq 0$$

**(Ranking)**  $(\exists \epsilon > 0)(\forall \tau \in \mathcal{T})$

$$L \models \tau(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') \geq 0 \rightarrow \mathbf{r}_{\pi(\tau)}^T \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}_{\pi(\tau)}^T \mathbf{x}' \geq \epsilon$$

**(Nonincreasing)**  $(\forall \tau \in \mathcal{T})$

$$L \models (\forall j < \pi(\tau)) [\tau(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') \geq 0 \rightarrow \mathbf{r}_j^T \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}_j^T \mathbf{x}' \geq 0]$$

## Linear Supporting Invariant

Ranking functions often require **supporting invariants**.

Consider linear loop  $L : \langle \Theta, \mathcal{T} \rangle$ .

For  $\mathbf{Ix} \geq \mathbf{0}$  a template ( $\mathbf{I}_{ij}$  are unknown coefficients),

$\mathbf{Ix} \geq \mathbf{0}$  is an  $\ell$ -**conjunct linear invariant** if

**(Initiation)**

$$\Theta \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \rightarrow \mathbf{Ix} \geq \mathbf{0}$$

**(Consecution)** ( $\forall \tau \in \mathcal{T}$ )

$$\mathbf{Ix} \geq \mathbf{0} \wedge \tau(\mathbf{xx}') \geq \mathbf{0} \rightarrow \mathbf{Ix}' \geq \mathbf{0}$$

Inductive assertion  $\Rightarrow$  invariant

**How do we find the unknown coefficients in the template?**

## Farkas Lemma (1894)

System of linear inequalities over real variables  $\mathbf{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ :

$$S : \begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{1,n}x_n + b_1 \geq 0 \\ \vdots \\ a_{m,1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{m,n}x_n + b_m \geq 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$S$  entails linear inequality

$$\psi : c_1x_1 + \cdots + c_nx_n + d \geq 0$$

if and only if there exist real numbers  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m \geq 0$  such that

$$c_1 = \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i a_{i,1} \quad \cdots \quad c_n = \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i a_{i,n} \quad d \geq \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i b_i \right)$$

## Synthesis Overview

Consider loop  $L : \langle \Theta, \mathcal{T} \rangle$  over  $\mathcal{V} = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m\}$ .

**Templates:**

- **expression**  $\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}$ , unknown coefficient vector  $\mathbf{c}$
- **assertion**  $\mathbf{C}\mathbf{x} \geq 0$ , unknown coefficient matrix  $\mathbf{C}$

**Given templates**

- $\ell$ -conjunct invariant template  $\boxed{\mathbf{I}\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}}$  ( $\mathbf{I}$  has  $\ell$  rows)
- $k$ -component lexicographic ranking function templates

$$\boxed{\{\mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x}, \dots, \mathbf{c}_k^T \mathbf{x}\}}$$

**Apply Farkas Lemma rules** to encode **ranking function** and **supporting invariant** conditions.

Either use **given**  $\pi$  or **synthesize** it.

## Farkas Lemma Rules: Invariant

(Initiation)

$$\text{II} : \frac{\Theta \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}}{\mathbf{I} \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}}$$

(Consecution)

$$\text{C}_i : \frac{\mathbf{I} \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \quad \tau_i(\mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}') \geq \mathbf{0}}{\mathbf{I} \mathbf{x}' \geq \mathbf{0}}$$

(Disabled)

$$\text{D}_i : \frac{\mathbf{I} \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \quad \tau_i(\mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}') \geq \mathbf{0}}{-1 \geq \mathbf{0} \quad \leftarrow \text{false}}$$



## Farkas Lemma Rules: Ranking Function

(Bounded)

$$\mathbb{B}_i : \begin{array}{r} \mathbf{I}\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \tau_i(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{c}^T\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array}$$

(Ranking)

$$\mathbb{R}_i : \begin{array}{r} \mathbf{I}\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \tau_i(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{c}^T\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{c}^T\mathbf{x}' - \epsilon \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array}$$

## Example: $\mathbb{R}_1$ for GCD

$$\tau_1 : \{y_1 \geq y_2 + 1\} \Rightarrow \{y'_1 = y_1 - y_2, y'_2 = y_2\}$$

$\lambda_1$	$i_{1,1}y_1$	+	$i_{1,2}y_2$			+	$i_{1,3}$	$\geq$	$0$
$\lambda_2$	$i_{2,1}y_1$	+	$i_{2,2}y_2$			+	$i_{2,3}$	$\geq$	$0$
$\lambda_3$	$y_1$	-	$y_2$			-	$1$	$\geq$	$0$
$\lambda_4$	$y_1$	-	$y_2$	-	$y'_1$			$=$	$0$
$\lambda_5$			$-y_2$			+	$y'_2$	$=$	$0$
	$c_1y_1$	+	$c_2y_2$	-	$c_1y'_1$	-	$c_2y'_2$	-	$\epsilon \geq 0$

$\Downarrow$

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_1 i_{1,1} + \lambda_2 i_{2,1} + \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 &= c_1 & \lambda_1 i_{1,3} + \lambda_2 i_{2,3} - \lambda_3 &\leq -\epsilon \\ \lambda_1 i_{1,2} + \lambda_2 i_{2,2} - \lambda_3 - \lambda_4 - \lambda_5 &= c_2 & \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 &\geq 0 \\ -\lambda_4 &= -c_1 & \epsilon &> 0 \\ \lambda_5 &= -c_2 \end{aligned}$$

Constraints are over  $\{c_1, c_2, \epsilon, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_5, i_{1,1}, \dots, i_{2,3}\}$ .

## Generated Constraints

- Constraints are **linear** if no invariant template is given.
- Constraints are **parametric linear** otherwise.
  - Linear, except for a few bilinear quadratic terms  
(a  $\lambda$  and a supporting invariant template coefficient,  
*e.g.*,  $\lambda_1 i_{1,1}$ )
  - Decidable [**Tarski 1951**]
  - Generic solvers based on CAD [**Collins 1975**]  
(**e.g.**, Mathematica, Redlog)
  - Specialized solvers  
[**Sankaranarayanan et al. 2004**], [**Bradley et al. 2005**]

## Synthesis: Soundness and Completeness

### Special Case

Linear loop  $L : \langle \Theta, \mathcal{T} \rangle$  has a  
linear ranking function  
supported by an  $\ell$ -conjunct linear invariant

$\Leftrightarrow$

the constraint system generated by

$$\mathbb{I} \wedge \bigwedge_{\tau_i \in \mathcal{T}} (\mathbb{D}_i \vee (\mathbb{C}_i \wedge \mathbb{B}_i \wedge \mathbb{R}_i))$$

is satisfiable.

## Example: GCD

$$\Theta : \{y_1 \geq 1, y_2 \geq 1\}$$

$$\tau_1 : \{y_1 \geq y_2 + 1\} \Rightarrow \{y'_1 = y_1 - y_2, y'_2 = y_2\}$$

$$\tau_2 : \{y_2 \geq y_1 + 1\} \Rightarrow \{y'_2 = y_2 - y_1, y'_1 = y_1\}$$

Find

- a linear ranking function  $\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}$

$$c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2 + c_3$$

- with a 2-conjunct supporting invariant  $\mathbf{I} \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} i_{1,1} & i_{1,2} & i_{1,3} \\ i_{2,1} & i_{2,2} & i_{2,3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \geq \mathbf{0}$$

## Example: GCD Invariant

### Initiation

$$\begin{array}{l} y_1 \geq 1 \\ y_2 \geq 1 \\ \hline \text{II : } i_{1,1}y_1 + i_{1,2}y_2 + i_{1,3} \geq 0 \\ i_{2,1}y_1 + i_{2,2}y_2 + i_{2,3} \geq 0 \end{array}$$

### Consecution

$$\begin{array}{l} i_{1,1}y_1 + i_{1,2}y_2 + i_{1,3} \geq 0 \\ i_{2,1}y_1 + i_{2,2}y_2 + i_{2,3} \geq 0 \\ y_1 \geq y_2 + 1 \\ \text{C}_1 : \quad y'_1 = y_1 - y_2 \\ \quad \quad y'_2 = y_2 \\ \hline i_{1,1}y'_1 + i_{1,2}y'_2 + i_{1,3} \geq 0 \\ i_{2,1}y'_1 + i_{2,2}y'_2 + i_{2,3} \geq 0 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{l} i_{1,1}y_1 + i_{1,2}y_2 + i_{1,3} \geq 0 \\ i_{2,1}y_1 + i_{2,2}y_2 + i_{2,3} \geq 0 \\ y_2 \geq y_1 + 1 \\ \text{C}_2 : \quad y'_2 = y_2 - y_1 \\ \quad \quad y'_1 = y_1 \\ \hline i_{1,1}y'_1 + i_{1,2}y'_2 + i_{1,3} \geq 0 \\ i_{2,1}y'_1 + i_{2,2}y'_2 + i_{2,3} \geq 0 \end{array}$$

## Example: GCD Ranking Function

### Bounded

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \mathbb{B}_1 : \\
 \begin{array}{l}
 i_{1,1}y_1 + i_{1,2}y_2 + i_{1,3} \geq 0 \\
 i_{2,1}y_1 + i_{2,2}y_2 + i_{2,3} \geq 0 \\
 y_1 \geq y_2 + 1
 \end{array} \\
 \hline
 c_1y_1 + c_2y_2 + c_3 \geq 0
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{l}
 \mathbb{B}_2 : \\
 \begin{array}{l}
 i_{1,1}y_1 + i_{1,2}y_2 + i_{1,3} \geq 0 \\
 i_{2,1}y_1 + i_{2,2}y_2 + i_{2,3} \geq 0 \\
 y_2 \geq y_1 + 1
 \end{array} \\
 \hline
 c_1y_1 + c_2y_2 + c_3 \geq 0
 \end{array}$$

### Ranking

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \mathbb{R}_1 : \\
 \begin{array}{l}
 i_{1,1}y_1 + i_{1,2}y_2 + i_{1,3} \geq 0 \\
 i_{2,1}y_1 + i_{2,2}y_2 + i_{2,3} \geq 0 \\
 y_1 \geq y_2 + 1 \\
 y'_1 = y_1 - y_2 \\
 y'_2 = y_2
 \end{array} \\
 \hline
 c_1y_1 + c_2y_2 \geq c_1y'_1 + c_2y'_2 + \epsilon
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{l}
 \mathbb{R}_2 : \\
 \begin{array}{l}
 i_{1,1}y_1 + i_{1,2}y_2 + i_{1,3} \geq 0 \\
 i_{2,1}y_1 + i_{2,2}y_2 + i_{2,3} \geq 0 \\
 y_2 \geq y_1 + 1 \\
 y'_2 = y_2 - y_1 \\
 y'_1 = y_1
 \end{array} \\
 \hline
 c_1y_1 + c_2y_2 \geq c_1y'_1 + c_2y'_2 + \epsilon
 \end{array}$$

## Example: GCD Synthesis

$$\Theta : \{y_1 \geq 1, y_2 \geq 1\}$$

$$\tau_1 : \{y_1 \geq y_2 + 1\} \Rightarrow \{y'_1 = y_1 - y_2, y'_2 = y_2\}$$

$$\tau_2 : \{y_2 \geq y_1 + 1\} \Rightarrow \{y'_2 = y_2 - y_1, y'_1 = y_1\}$$

Solving the constraint system induced by

$$\mathbb{I} \wedge \mathbb{C}_1 \wedge \mathbb{C}_2 \wedge \mathbb{B}_1 \wedge \mathbb{B}_2 \wedge \mathbb{R}_1 \wedge \mathbb{R}_2$$

reveals ranking function

$$c_1 = c_2 = 1, c_3 = 0 \Rightarrow \boxed{y_1 + y_2}$$

with  $\epsilon = 1$ , supported by the invariants

$$i_{1,1} = 1, i_{1,2} = 0, i_{1,3} = -1 \Rightarrow$$

$$i_{2,1} = 0, i_{2,2} = 1, i_{2,3} = -1 \Rightarrow$$

$$\boxed{y_1 \geq 1}$$

$$\boxed{y_2 \geq 1}$$

which proves that GCD always terminates.



Synthesis of  
Linear Lexicographic Ranking Functions  
with Supporting Invariants

## Farkas Lemma Rules: Invariant

(Initiation)

$$\text{II} : \frac{\Theta \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}}{\mathbf{I} \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}}$$

(Consecution)

$$\text{C}_i : \frac{\mathbf{I} \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \quad \tau_i(\mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}') \geq \mathbf{0}}{\mathbf{I} \mathbf{x}' \geq \mathbf{0}}$$

(Disabled)

$$\text{D}_i : \frac{\mathbf{I} \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \quad \tau_i(\mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}') \geq \mathbf{0}}{-1 \geq \mathbf{0} \quad \leftarrow \text{false}}$$

## Farkas Lemma Rules: Ranking Function

(Bounded)

$$\begin{array}{r} \mathbf{I}\mathbf{x} \quad \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbb{B}_{ij} : \quad \frac{\tau_i(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') \geq 0}{\mathbf{c}_j^T \mathbf{x} \geq 0} \end{array}$$

(Ranking)

$$\begin{array}{r} \mathbf{I}\mathbf{x} \quad \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbb{R}_{ij} : \quad \frac{\tau_i(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') \geq 0}{\mathbf{c}_j^T \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{c}_j^T \mathbf{x}' - \epsilon \geq 0} \end{array}$$

(Nonincreasing)

$$\begin{array}{r} \mathbf{I}\mathbf{x} \quad \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbb{N}_{ij} : \quad \frac{\tau_i(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') \geq 0}{\mathbf{c}_j^T \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{c}_j^T \mathbf{x}' \geq 0} \end{array}$$

## Synthesis: Soundness and Completeness

### Theorem (General Case)

Linear loop  $L : \langle \Theta, \mathcal{T} \rangle$  has a  
 $k$ -lexicographic linear ranking function  
supported by an  $\ell$ -conjunct linear invariant

$\Leftrightarrow$

the constraint system generated by

$$\mathbb{I} \wedge \bigwedge_{\tau_i \in \mathcal{T}} (\mathbb{D}_i \vee (\mathbb{C}_i \wedge \mathbb{B}_{i, \pi(i)} \wedge \mathbb{R}_{i, \pi(i)})) \wedge \bigwedge_{\tau_i \in \mathcal{T}, j < \pi(i)} (\mathbb{D}_i \vee \mathbb{N}_{ij})$$

is **satisfiable** for some  $\pi : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, k\}$ .

## Synthesizing Lexicographic Ranking Functions

The theorem asks for a map  $\pi$ . Can we efficiently find the map?

Overview:

- Initially propose one template component per transition

$$\{\mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x}, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n^T \mathbf{x}\}$$

Inexpensive because template coefficients  $\mathbf{c}_i$  appear only **linearly** in generated constraints.

- Incrementally build linear order  $\prec$  over  $\mathcal{T}$ .  
Linear order gives  $\pi$ .
- Use intermediate partial orders to generate and solve constraint systems to guide search.

## Simplified Farkas Lemma Rules

One component per transition.

(Bounded)

$$\mathbb{B}_i : \begin{array}{r} \mathbf{I}\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \tau_i(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{c}_i^T \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array}$$

(Ranking)

$$\mathbb{R}_i : \begin{array}{r} \mathbf{I}\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \tau_i(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{c}_i^T \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{c}_i^T \mathbf{x}' - \epsilon \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array}$$

## Synthesizing Lexicographic Ranking Functions

Incrementally build  $\prec$  over  $\mathcal{T}$ :

1. Guess  $\tau_i \prec \tau_j$ :

$$\langle \dots, \mathbf{c}_i^T \mathbf{x}, \dots, \mathbf{c}_j^T \mathbf{x}, \dots \rangle$$

2. Generate constraint system and solve.

- $\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{C}_i, \mathbf{D}_i, \mathbf{B}_i, \mathbf{R}_i$  are fixed.
- $\tau_i \prec \tau_j$  induces  $\mathbb{N}_{ji}$ :  $\tau_j$  should not increase  $\mathbf{c}_i^T \mathbf{x}$

**Satisfiable**  $\Rightarrow$  Continue search

**Unsatisfiable**  $\Rightarrow$  Try  $\tau_i \succ \tau_j$

**Satisfiable**  $\Rightarrow$  Continue search

**Unsatisfiable**  $\Rightarrow$  Backtrack

3. Finished when order is **linear**  
and generated constraint system is **satisfiable**.

## One Constraint System per Component

Given lexicographic template components

$$\{\mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x}, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n^T \mathbf{x}\}$$

and **partial order**  $\prec$  over  $\mathcal{T}$ , solve  $n$  constraint systems induced by

$$\underbrace{\mathbb{I} \wedge \bigwedge_{\tau_i} (\mathbb{D}_i \vee \mathbb{C}_i)}_{\text{Invariant}} \quad \wedge \quad \underbrace{(\mathbb{D}_j \vee (\mathbb{B}_j \wedge \mathbb{R}_j))}_{\tau_j \text{ ranked by } \mathbf{c}_j^T}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \wedge & & \langle \dots, \mathbf{c}_j^T \mathbf{x}, \dots, \mathbf{c}_i^T \mathbf{x}, \dots \rangle \\ & \bigwedge_{\tau_i \text{ s.t. } \tau_j \prec \tau_i} (\mathbb{D}_i \vee \mathbb{N}_{ij}) & \begin{array}{cc} \uparrow & \uparrow \\ \tau_j & \tau_i \end{array} \end{array}$$

$\tau_i$  does not increase  $\mathbf{c}_j^T$  if  $\tau_j \prec \tau_i$

for  $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ .



## One Constraint System per Component

Advantages:

- Multiple smaller constraint systems are easier to solve in practice.
- Invariant template may be instantiated differently for each constraint system.

## Example: McCarthy 91

$$\Theta : \{s = 1\}$$

$$\tau_1 : \{x \geq 101, s \leq 0\} \Rightarrow \{x' = x - 10, s' = s - 1\}$$

$$\tau_2 : \{x \geq 101, s \geq 2\} \Rightarrow \{x' = x - 10, s' = s - 1\}$$

$$\tau_3 : \{x \leq 100\} \Rightarrow \{x' = x + 11, s' = s + 1\}$$

} split of  
s ≠ 1

Find

- a 3-component lexicographic linear ranking function

$$\langle \mathbf{r}_1^T \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{r}_2^T \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{r}_3^T \mathbf{x} \rangle$$

$$\pi : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3\}$$

- with a 1-conjunct supporting invariant  $\mathbf{I}\mathbf{x} \geq 0$

## Example: McCarthy 91

Iteration 1:

- One template per transition.

$$\{\mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}_2^T \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{x}\}$$

- No order assumed between transitions.
- Three sets of conditions:

$$\mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x} : I \wedge C_1 \wedge C_2 \wedge C_3 \wedge B_1 \wedge R_1$$

$$\mathbf{c}_2^T \mathbf{x} : I \wedge C_1 \wedge C_2 \wedge C_3 \wedge B_2 \wedge R_2$$

$$\mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{x} : I \wedge C_1 \wedge C_2 \wedge C_3 \wedge B_3 \wedge R_3$$

- Induced constraint systems are **satisfiable**.

## Example: McCarthy 91

Constraints on  $\mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x}$ :

### Initiation

$$\text{II} : \frac{s = 1}{i_1 s + i_2 x + i_3 \geq 0}$$

### Consecution

$\mathbb{C}_1 :$

$$i_1 s + i_2 x + i_3 \geq 0$$

$$x \geq 101$$

$$s \leq 0$$

$$x' = x - 10$$

$$s' = s - 1$$

$$\frac{i_1 s' + i_2 x' + i_3 \geq 0}{}$$

$\mathbb{C}_2 :$

$$i_1 s + i_2 x + i_3 \geq 0$$

$$x \geq 101$$

$$s \geq 2$$

$$x' = x - 10$$

$$s' = s - 1$$

$$\frac{i_1 s' + i_2 x' + i_3 \geq 0}{}$$

$\mathbb{C}_3 :$

$$i_1 s + i_2 x + i_3 \geq 0$$

$$x \leq 100$$

$$x' = x + 11$$

$$s' = s + 1$$

$$\frac{i_1 s' + i_2 x' + i_3 \geq 0}{}$$

## Example: McCarthy 91

### Bounded

$$\mathbb{B}_1 : \frac{\begin{array}{l} i_1 s + i_2 x + i_3 \geq 0 \\ x \geq 101 \\ s \leq 0 \end{array}}{c_{1,1} s + c_{1,2} x + c_{1,3} \geq 0}$$

### Ranking

$$\mathbb{R}_1 : \frac{\begin{array}{l} i_1 s + i_2 x + i_3 \geq 0 \\ x \geq 101 \\ s \leq 0 \\ x' = x - 10 \\ s' = s - 1 \end{array}}{c_{1,1} s + c_{1,2} x \geq c_{1,1} s' + c_{1,2} x' + \epsilon}$$

## Example: McCarthy 91

Iteration 2:

- Guess  $\tau_3 \prec \tau_2$ .

$$\langle \dots, \mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{x}, \dots, \mathbf{c}_2^T \mathbf{x}, \dots \rangle$$

$\tau_2$  should not increase  $\mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{x}$ .

- Three sets of conditions:

$$\mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x} : \quad \mathbb{I} \wedge \mathbb{C}_1 \wedge \mathbb{C}_2 \wedge \mathbb{C}_3 \wedge \mathbb{B}_1 \wedge \mathbb{R}_1$$

$$\mathbf{c}_2^T \mathbf{x} : \quad \mathbb{I} \wedge \mathbb{C}_1 \wedge \mathbb{C}_2 \wedge \mathbb{C}_3 \wedge \mathbb{B}_2 \wedge \mathbb{R}_2$$

$$\mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{x} : \quad \mathbb{I} \wedge \mathbb{C}_1 \wedge \mathbb{C}_2 \wedge \mathbb{C}_3 \wedge \mathbb{B}_3 \wedge \mathbb{R}_3 \wedge \mathbb{N}_{2,3}$$

- Induced constraint systems are **satisfiable**.

## Example: McCarthy 91

Iteration 3:

- Guess  $\tau_1 \prec \tau_3$ .

$$\langle \dots, \mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x}, \dots, \mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{x}, \dots \rangle$$

$\tau_3$  should not increase  $\mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x}$ .

- Three sets of conditions:

$$\mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x} : \quad \mathbb{I} \wedge \mathbb{C}_1 \wedge \mathbb{C}_2 \wedge \mathbb{C}_3 \wedge \mathbb{B}_1 \wedge \mathbb{R}_1 \wedge \mathbb{N}_{3,1}$$

$$\mathbf{c}_2^T \mathbf{x} : \quad \mathbb{I} \wedge \mathbb{C}_1 \wedge \mathbb{C}_2 \wedge \mathbb{C}_3 \wedge \mathbb{B}_2 \wedge \mathbb{R}_2$$

$$\mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{x} : \quad \mathbb{I} \wedge \mathbb{C}_1 \wedge \mathbb{C}_2 \wedge \mathbb{C}_3 \wedge \mathbb{B}_3 \wedge \mathbb{R}_3 \wedge \mathbb{N}_{2,3}$$

- Induced constraint system for  $\mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x}$  is **unsatisfiable**.

## Example: McCarthy 91

Iteration 3:

- Try  $\tau_3 \prec \tau_1$  instead.

$$\langle \dots, \mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{x}, \dots, \mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x}, \dots \rangle$$

$\tau_1$  should not increase  $\mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{x}$ .

- Three sets of conditions:

$$\mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x} : \quad \mathbb{I} \wedge \mathbb{C}_1 \wedge \mathbb{C}_2 \wedge \mathbb{C}_3 \wedge \mathbb{B}_1 \wedge \mathbb{R}_1$$

$$\mathbf{c}_2^T \mathbf{x} : \quad \mathbb{I} \wedge \mathbb{C}_1 \wedge \mathbb{C}_2 \wedge \mathbb{C}_3 \wedge \mathbb{B}_2 \wedge \mathbb{R}_2$$

$$\mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{x} : \quad \mathbb{I} \wedge \mathbb{C}_1 \wedge \mathbb{C}_2 \wedge \mathbb{C}_3 \wedge \mathbb{B}_3 \wedge \mathbb{R}_3 \wedge \mathbb{N}_{2,3} \wedge \mathbb{N}_{1,3}$$

- Induced constraint systems are **satisfiable**.



## Example: McCarthy 91

Iteration 4:

- Guess  $\tau_2 \prec \tau_1$  (but  $\tau_1 \prec \tau_2$  works, too).

$$\langle \dots, \mathbf{c}_2^T \mathbf{x}, \dots, \mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x}, \dots \rangle$$

$\tau_1$  should not increase  $\mathbf{c}_2^T \mathbf{x}$ .

- Three sets of conditions:

$$\mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x} : \quad \mathbb{I} \wedge \mathbb{C}_1 \wedge \mathbb{C}_2 \wedge \mathbb{C}_3 \wedge \mathbb{B}_1 \wedge \mathbb{R}_1$$

$$\mathbf{c}_2^T \mathbf{x} : \quad \mathbb{I} \wedge \mathbb{C}_1 \wedge \mathbb{C}_2 \wedge \mathbb{C}_3 \wedge \mathbb{B}_2 \wedge \mathbb{R}_2 \wedge \mathbb{N}_{1,2}$$

$$\mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{x} : \quad \mathbb{I} \wedge \mathbb{C}_1 \wedge \mathbb{C}_2 \wedge \mathbb{C}_3 \wedge \mathbb{B}_3 \wedge \mathbb{R}_3 \wedge \mathbb{N}_{2,3} \wedge \mathbb{N}_{1,3}$$

- Induced constraint systems are **satisfiable**.

## Example: McCarthy 91

Iteration 4:

- $\prec$  is a linear order:

$$\langle \mathbf{c}_3^T \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}_2^T \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}_1^T \mathbf{x} \rangle$$

$$\tau_3 \prec \tau_2 \prec \tau_1$$

- $\prec$  gives  $\pi$ :

$$\pi(\tau_1) = 3, \pi(\tau_2) = 2, \pi(\tau_3) = 1$$

## Example: McCarthy 91

$$\Theta : \{s = 1\}$$

$$\tau_1 : \{x \geq 101, s \leq 0\} \Rightarrow \{x' = x - 10, s' = s - 1\}$$

$$\tau_2 : \{x \geq 101, s \geq 2\} \Rightarrow \{x' = x - 10, s' = s - 1\}$$

$$\tau_3 : \{x \leq 100\} \Rightarrow \{x' = x + 11, s' = s + 1\}$$

Solving the final constraint systems reveals ranking function

$$\langle 10s - x + 90, x, x \rangle$$

$$\pi(\tau_1) = 3, \pi(\tau_2) = 2, \pi(\tau_3) = 1$$

supported by the invariant

$$s \geq 1$$

which proves that McCarthy 91 always terminates.

## In Practice

Name	LOC	L	A	P	P/A	P/L	Sec
meschach	28K	911	778	758	97%	83%	64
gnuplot	50K	826	312	301	96%	36%	88
gaim	57K	594	54	52	96%	8%	94
ffmpeg	108K	2674	2115	2081	98%	78%	198

- Prototype **unsound** abstraction of C loops, using CIL.  
Why unsound?
  - Overflows, **unsigned**, **doubles** abstracted as  $\mathbb{R}$ s, *etc.*
  - Aliasing, globals changed by function calls, *etc.*In principle, can be sound — an engineering task.
- Synthesis of lexicographic linear ranking functions.  
Lexicographic function needed for 10 loops.

## Example of Failed Abstraction

```
List * iter = items;
while (iter != NULL) {
    ...
    iter = iter->next;
}
```

Proving termination requires:

- proving that `items` is noncircular (**nontrivial**);
- abstracting iteration to counting down (**trivial**).

## Example of Failed Abstraction

```
char * ptr = input;
while (*ptr != '\0') {
    ...
    ptr++;
}
```

Proving termination requires:

- proving that `input` is a well-formed C string (**nontrivial**).
- abstracting pointer arithmetic to counting down (**trivial**).

## Reasons for Failed Proofs

1. **Prototype** abstracter!

2. Need for invariants. Examples:

`i = 2 * i;`     $i \geq 0$  to deduce increase in `i`

`i = i + k;`     $k > 0$  to deduce increase in `i`

3. Need for **summarizing** embedded loops. Example:

```
while (i < n) {  
    while (...) { i++; }    ← summarize with  $i' \geq i$   
    i++;  
}
```

4. Need for function invariants. Example:

`i = i + strlen(str);`    knowledge about `str` and `strlen`

5. Loop does not terminate.

# Appendix



## Expanding a Farkas Lemma Rule

$$\mathbb{R}_{ij} : \begin{array}{r} \mathbf{I}\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \tau_i(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{c}_j^T \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{c}_j^T \mathbf{x}' - \epsilon \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x} &= (x_1, \dots, x_m, 1)^T \\ (\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}') &= (x_1, \dots, x_m, x'_1, \dots, x'_m, 1)^T \end{aligned}$$

⇓

$$\begin{array}{r} \lambda_I \quad \mathbf{I}\mathbf{x} \quad + \quad \mathbf{i} \quad \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \lambda_G \quad \mathbf{G}_i \mathbf{x} \quad + \quad \mathbf{g}_i \quad \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \lambda_U \quad \mathbf{U}_i \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{V}_i \mathbf{x}' + \mathbf{u}_i \geq \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{c}_j^T \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{c}_j^T \mathbf{x}' - \epsilon \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array}$$

Expand assertions:

$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_m)^T$$

$$\mathbf{x}' = (x'_1, \dots, x'_m)^T$$

$\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{i}$  define  $\Theta$

$\mathbf{G}_i, \mathbf{g}_i, \mathbf{U}_i, \mathbf{V}_i, \mathbf{u}_i$  define  $\tau_i$

⇓

$$\begin{array}{r} \lambda_I^T \mathbf{I} + \lambda_G^T \mathbf{G}_i + \lambda_U^T \mathbf{U}_i = \mathbf{c}_j \\ \lambda_U^T \mathbf{V}_i = -\mathbf{c}_j \\ \lambda_I^T \mathbf{i} + \lambda_G^T \mathbf{g}_i + \lambda_U^T \mathbf{u}_i \leq -\epsilon \\ \lambda_I, \lambda_G, \lambda_U \geq 0 \\ \epsilon > 0 \end{array}$$

Constraints over  $\{\lambda_I, \lambda_G, \lambda_U, \mathbf{c}_j, \epsilon\}$

## Lexicographic Synthesis

```
let lex  $L : \langle \Theta, \mathcal{T} \rangle =$   
  let sat  $o = (\forall \tau \in \mathcal{T})(\text{satisfiable } L \tau o)$  in  
  let rec search  $o =$   
    sat  $o$  and  
    match choose  $o$  with  
    | None  $\rightarrow$  true  
      (search ( $o \cup (\tau \prec \tau')$ ))  
    | Some  $(\tau, \tau')$   $\rightarrow$  or  
      (search ( $o \cup (\tau' \prec \tau)$ ))  
  
in  
search  $\{\}$ 
```

## Lexicographic Synthesis

Calling

*satisfiable*  $L \tau_j o$

generates and solves a constraint system for  $L$ ,  $\tau$ , and  $o$ , in which

$\mathbb{N}_{ij}$

is imposed iff

$(\tau_j \prec \tau_i) \in o$

Solving **partial** constraint systems **guides** the construction of lexicographic ranking functions.